

TRIBUTE TO JEAN STRAUSS,
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of my staff and citizen of the Southwest Chicagoland community. This year, Jean Strauss was selected as Woman of the Year by St. Jane de Chantal Parish Ladies Guild in Garfield Ridge. On June 10th, 2000, Jean was honored at the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (CCW) Vicariate V Women of the Year Luncheon, held at the Lexington House in Hickory Hills, Illinois. It gives me great pleasure to inform my colleagues of the great work that Jean performed to deserve this honor. I think that all will agree that she represents the volunteer spirit that has not only helped to make Southwest Chicagoland an exceptional place to live, but our entire nation as well.

Jean Strauss has served St. Jane de Chantal Parish for several years. Besides regularly attending mass, she has held numerous offices and served on various committees. Those who know Jean best say that she volunteers for "almost everything." Specific examples of her philanthropy include volunteering for the American Cancer Society and Kiwanis.

As I mentioned previously, Jean is a valued member of my staff. For four years, she has worked at the 23rd Ward Office in Chicago for Alderman Mike Zalewski, Illinois State Senator Bob Molaro, and myself. In this capacity, she performs numerous important tasks for the 23rd Ward. For example, as a fluent speaker of Polish, Jean helps those in the 23rd Ward who are learning the English language. In addition, she greatly assists disabled senior citizens by picking up and returning their paid utility bills. Thanks to Jean, her co-workers in the 23rd Ward office are almost always likely to have snacks at their disposal and their desks decorated for the holidays.

Perhaps most importantly, Jean Strauss is a devoted wife to her husband Jack. Together, they are the proud parents of Jake and John Strauss. Just recently, she celebrated the birth of her first grandchild—Eric Dawson Strauss. When Jean is not volunteering, one is likely to find her at a local dining establishment, or perhaps pushing her luck at a "gaming" enterprise.

Again, I am pleased to congratulate Jean Strauss before my colleagues today. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that Jean will enjoy many more years of service to the Southwest Chicagoland community, and I thank her for many contributions.

THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
FUTURE OF AFRICAN NATIONS

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in response to the tragic events in African countries such as Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo. I rise, however, Mr.

Speaker to highlight a different image of Africa—an image I have witnessed firsthand.

All too often, the only impression of Africa made upon the American public is that of carnage, corruption, and catastrophe, as reported by our country's television and print media. While I recognize that these problems are real and continue to present serious challenges to the social, political, and economic development of African countries, I wanted to highlight some of the success stories from the Continent.

There is a new generation of leaders who hope to make Africa a continent of flourishing democracies. While the Trade and Development Act of 2000, originally the African Growth and Opportunity Act, is a necessary first step in committing ourselves to African success; it by no means signals the end of our walk with Africa. It is my hope that the Act will serve as an institutional framework for private investors and businesses to develop a meaningful presence within Africa. Ultimately, a private-public partnership is what is needed to provide the political and economic support African nations require to meet the development challenges of the 21st century.

I want to thank you and the rest of my colleagues in the House for your support and partnership with Africa. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article, published in the May 26, 2000, issue of the Baltimore Sun, for insertion into the RECORD.

AMERICAN COMPANIES CAN DO MORE TO HELP
AFRICA

(By James Clyburn, Earl Hillard and Bennie Thompson)

During a recent congressional recess, six congressional delegations went on fact-finding missions to Africa. The number of delegations visiting the continent was no coincidence.

Nor was it inconsequential when the United States used its chairmanship of the U.N. Security Council to make January "Africa Month" for the council. President Clinton's recently announced trip to Nigeria in June, the second to Africa in his administration, is a welcome bid to efforts aimed at putting the map of Africa onto the U.S. policy agenda.

The president's efforts are now being supported by members whose views on domestic policy span our political spectrum but who share a commitment to seeing an end to Africa's self-destructive wars and the establishment of an era of peace and prosperity on the continent.

Often, the only images of Africa the American public has the opportunity to see are those of carnage, corruption and catastrophe.

As reports of civil war in Sierra Leone, Eritrea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo continue to grab headlines in America's newspapers, we journeyed to Africa with the hope of highlighting a different image of the continent. Our delegation spent three days in one of the continent's smallest countries, Gambia—made famous by author Alex Haley in his epic saga, "Roots," as the true-life homeland of the novel's hero, Kunta Kinte.

Smaller than any of our individual congressional districts, Gambia is a country of only 1 million people on the west coast of Africa.

The country makes up for its few natural resources with a modern deep-water port and one of Africa's most advanced telecommunications systems. Like many African countries, Gambia is struggling to define itself as a service economy, worthy of Western investment.

During our stay, we were bounced along seemingly impassable roads to isolated villages by our government hosts and saw that the much-vaunted "services" did not extend outside the capital city of Banjul. What we were shown was not a whitewash, however, but a stark example of an African country struggling to provide a better future for its people.

Between episodic power outages and seasonal floods, there exists in Gambia a hope and motivation to overcome and succeed. From what we were shown, Gambia can, and may already be, an African success story.

With the construction of many new hospitals and dozens of new schools, including the country's first university, the government of President Yahya Jammeh is succeeding where 30 years of autocratic rule had failed.

However, the technical, financial and educational resources of such countries are quickly exhausted—leaving too many projects incomplete and ideas unrealized.

As the international assistance and debt relief to these countries has stalled in our Congress, or dried up completely, private, non-governmental groups have stepped in to fill the void in implementing essential development programs.

U.S.-based Catholic Relief Services has in place across Gambia, and the rest of Africa, programs that promote the role of women in society, provide HIV education and fund micro-enterprise projects—all programs that formerly were undertaken by the U.S. Agency for International Development. However, these non-governmental organizations are themselves subject to competing congressional finding interests and so, too, remain sorely underdeveloped.

As in our cities, where corporate America has helped fund a rebirth of our inner cities, so, too, can it assist the nations of Africa in their own rebirth.

This notion of "trade not aid" is the cornerstone of the African Growth and Opportunity Act that President Clinton signed into law this month and should define the future of U.S. relations with Africa.

Those companies already at work in Africa and with Africans, are now ideally placed to provide the kind of business environment that ultimately creates a peaceful society.

A healthy and educated workforce is not only for good business but for stable and peaceful lives, free of war and poverty, sickness and migration.

As members of Congress, it is our hope and intention to help facilitate these partnerships wherever possible. We have seen the hope of a proud and welcoming people and will implore our friends and colleagues to help Africa keep hope alive.

The three writers are members of the Congressional Black Caucus from South Carolina, Alabama and Mississippi, respectively. Mr. Clyburn is caucus chairman.

ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL ARTS
COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS
HONORED

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local school systems working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor 47 outstanding high school artists from the 11th